

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The original claims being a literal translation of the German text, they have been rewritten in an effort to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112 and to adhere more closely to U. S. practice.

As shown clearly in the drawing, blanks 13 have edges 16 extending along edge outline 14, and seams 15 are sewn inside, and along a part of, blank edges 16. Endless woven fabric 1 is comprised of weft and warp fiber strands 2, 3. Concerning claims 6 and 7, as also shown in the drawing, seams 15 need to be sewn only along those parts of the blank edges that require the seam to avoid fraying of the fiber strands. This is true particularly for the edges extending parallel to the fiber strands or forming corners of the blank where there are short fiber strands. Thus, these claims specify that the seam is sewed in the part of the edges forming a corner of the blank, or which encloses an angle smaller than 30° with the fiber strands at the edges of the blank.

The teaching of Backmann, cited, has been acknowledged on page 2, of the specification. However, Backmann deals with non-woven webs which differs fundamentally from woven fabrics composed of weft and warp fiber strands. Thus, there can be no

fraying of fiber strands, as it occurs in woven fabrics, and which poses the problem solved by applicant. This problem does not exist with non-woven webs wherefore a person of ordinary skill in the art could not be taught this solution by Backmann.

Furthermore, it is an object of the claimed invention to reduce the length of the work table so that it may be shorter than the blank to be cut. This is accomplished by conveying the endless fabric step by step to advance it from one longitudinal section to the next. Part of the seam is sewn and cut in one longitudinal section, and the sewing and cutting is completed in consecutive longitudinal sections. This contrasts with Backmann, in which the seam is sewn and each blank is cut in a single step.

As to Bertsch et al, also cited, they deal with shells of fiber-reinforced plastics, which differ fundamentally from woven fabrics composed of weft and warp fiber strands. In fiber-reinforced plastics, the reinforcing fibers are embedded in the plastic and, therefore, cannot fray. In applicant's method, the blanks are cut out from the woven fabric before the fabric blanks are impregnated with the plastic. Thus, replacing Backmann's non-woven webs with Bertsch et al's fiber-reinforced plastic leads no closer to the solution of the problem applicant encountered at the time he made the

invention. Neither Backmann nor Bertsch et al faced the problem of fraying fiber strands when cutting out blanks.

In view of the above, claim 5 is respectfully submitted clearly to be patentable. Claims 6 and 7 are directed to preferred embodiments, and these steps are not suggested by the prior art. These claims are, therefore, believed to be patentable on their own merits.

A sincere effort having been made to overcome all grounds of rejection, favorable reconsideration and allowance of claims 5-7 are respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

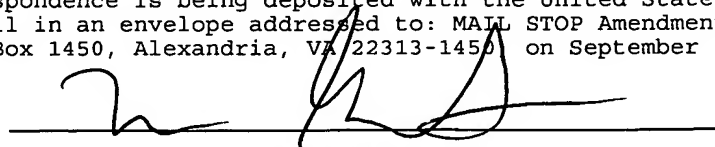
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